## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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Speaker of the Legislature will appoint one member from the That makes five. These people will then select members from various named entities totaling eight. Each entity will be allowed to select one person from its group to be placed on this commission. There is a provision that says any money realized from a grant that had been put in to the Department of Agriculture that would come from the National Rural Development Partnership, any money that came from that source would have 75 percent of it, up to \$300,000, go to this commission. The reason we are where we are today is because money had been taken from this commission during the last special session. When we came into regular session, it was determined that since no money is there for the commission to operate, the language that created the commission should be taken from the statute. It was stated during the debate on that bill that the commission would seek nonprofit status and go after grants. It was known that is the approach the commission would take. There were groups that you could roughly label grass-roots organizations that got together, pooled what expertise they had, to put together grant that. in fact, was submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Unbeknownst to them until the hammer fell, the Governor had undermined their effort by submitting a grant also. Because two grants came from the same state and it's the only situation like that that occurred in this country, both were sent back. Fourteen senators had a meeting with the Governor to determine what was going on and what could be done to smooth out this situation. It was at that meeting that the Governor dealt with our colleagues in a very rough, heavy-handed, discourteous There were statements made by him which showed an utter disregard for our colleagues, for the Legislature, those rural interests that had worked together to put together He made it crystal-clear that he is a "Repelican." the grant. the President of the United States is a "Repelican," so he would definitely have the inside track and his desires would be carried out for those political reasons. More can be said on that as the discussion progresses, but I'm trying to give you an overview of what has happened that has brought us to where we I got into this issue and took it on because it transcends a dispute between two philosophies. It goes to the integrity of the Legislature and our process. We acted as a Legislature to remove this commission from the statute with the